

KSNM • FM GREAT SONGS GREAT MEMORIES 98.7
KXDA • FM THE ROCK OF LAS CRUCES 103.1

ORIGINAL MM 99-25

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3-18-99

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OCT 12 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12 th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Microradio is the topic of my letter to you today. I have some real concerns about the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking at the F.C.C. that I wanted to express to you.

The FCC is supposed to insure that current broadcasting stations are maintained in as much of an interference-free environment as possible. One of our stations, KXDA FM has been short spaced with another in Fabens, Tx. for years and we could now be facing additional "crowding" of the frequencies around us. It appears that the Commission is seriously considering abandoning its interests in protecting against interference by looking to add new low-power radio stations to communities around the country. Our service, even after an minor change upgrade cannot even properly cover our county of license.

Even though we are not in a major market at this time, with the continued growth of Southern New Mexico and especially Las Cruces and Dona Ana County, there are no extra radio broadcasting frequencies available at this time. So my question is this...are they going to crowd the current fm bands with adjacent radio channels that will only add to the interference we are already experiencing? It looks that way.

In a recent article from the El Paso Times, the very station that we are short-spaced with, KPAS FM is now experiencing interference from some new Mexico station. I have enclosed a copy of that story.

My other concerns are about the Commissions proposed ownership limits for low-power stations. I do not understand their desire to license to certain favored groups and how that can be reconciled with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 or the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

I would urge you to give serious consideration to placing all low-power FM actions on hold until and unless the many technical issues are resolved and rules are adopted for digital audio broadcasting...another threat to local radio stations. American radio listeners depend on local broadcasters for important local news, weather and emergency bulletins, public affairs and public service programming. We should not be putting access to that programming at risk by bringing on-line new, untested and technically infeasible radio service that is not driven by good public policy.

Any help you can provide in "stopping this train from your glory" would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Bob May
GM
KSNM FM/KXDA FM

cc Paula Maes, NMBA

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Railroad commissioners to meet with El Paso leaders **4B**

Bradley says Democrats should not give up on Texas in 2000 **6B**

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1999

El Paso Times BO

Police to conduct bridge operations

The El Paso Police Department's Central Regional Command will conduct two weekend bridge operations while most El Paso students are on spring break until March 21.

Sgt. Robert Pratt, in charge of the Metro Unit, said police expect more traffic into Juárez by way of the Paso del Norte Bridge. The operations will target curfew violations, underage drinking and drunken driving. The curfew ordinance requires youths 17 and younger to be at home or accompanied by a responsible adult from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

"We will be checking pedestrians coming and going on the bridge," Pratt said. "So if they try to get in early to avoid a curfew violation, we'll catch them in violation on the way back."

— Christina Ramírez

► **Radio station has signal problems:** El Paso inspirational and gospel music station KPAS-103.1 FM is having problems with its signal because of a just-opened station in Mexico, KPAS owner Algie A. Felder said Friday.

"They're interfering with our signal," he said. He said the Federal Communications Commission was working with him to fix the problem, which is affecting listeners in West, East and Northeast El Paso.

The station format is English from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Spanish from 8 p.m. to midnight and 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

— Sito Negrón

► **Photo contest features felines:** The Humane Society of El Paso is conducting its Fluff 'N Stuff Cat Photo Contest.

Categories are Mischief Maker, Cat Pin-Up of the Year, Best Animal and Fluff

3 finalists i

By Patrick C. McDonnell
El Paso Times

The city has landed three finalists for director of El Paso International Airport.

In late February, a panel of four airport experts tested eight semifinalists and gave top scores, in descending order, to:

► Mark N. Earle, 43, director of aviation at Lubbock International Airport since 1995.

► Patrick T. Abeln, 48, chief administrative officer for the Tucson Airport Au-

thority since 1995.

► And Paige K. Wagg, 48, El Paso's assistant director of aviation operations since July 1988.

The airport has been out a permanent director since July 1998, when Rankin left for a job in Laredo. David Bird, the interim director, was ranked first by the panel.

The mayor said he will nominate one of the three for the job within the next few days. The City Council will either confirm or reject the nominee.

